

Rathfarnham's Top 5

Places of Interest; Top Activities; Top Heroes;
Artists and Writers; Hidden Rathfarnham



South Dublin Libraries



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Artists and Writers; Hidden Rathfarnham

Written by: Helen Crossan, Natascha Downey, Catherine Harris, Donal Kelly, Emelene Kennedy, Hollyn Kennedy, Anna O'Brien, Conor O'Brien, Sophie Russell, Aoife Taplin, Dearbhla Treacy

Guide Co-Ordinator
Ciara Scott

South Dublin Libraries 2010

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South Dublin Library Headquarters
Unit 1
Square Industrial Complex
Tallaght
Dublin 24
Phone: 353 (0)1 459 7834
Fax: 353 (0)1 459 7872
www.southdublinlibraries.ie
e-mail: localstudies@sdublincoco.ie

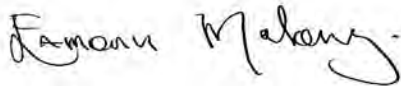
Introduction by Mayor Eamonn Maloney



As Mayor of South Dublin County Council, it is my pleasure to introduce this guidebook on Rathfarnham. This publication is the work of children who this year diligently researched the area where they are growing up and under the guidance of Ciara Scott came up with this wonderful collection of things to see and do. It is full of interesting and sometimes quirky facts which will primarily appeal to children but will also appeal to those who are looking for an introduction to the heritage of this locality.

The guidebook is cleverly arranged under headings such as the Top 5 Places of Interest, Top 5 Activities, Top 5 Heroes, Top 5 Artists and Writers and Top 5 Hidden Rathfarnham. Illustrations are included to help identify the people and places mentioned, and the opening hours and admission charges are also outlined.

South Dublin County Council through its library service is delighted to add this guidebook to its collection on Local Studies and is especially pleased that it is our first publication to be produced specifically by children for children.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eamonn Maloney".

Eamonn Maloney
Mayor of South Dublin County
Dec 2010

Rathfarnham's Top 5 Project

Rathfarnham's Top 5 Guidebook is the result of a project that began life at Ballyroan Library. This project was aimed at local families, the idea being to bring children and parents together in an atmosphere of learning that would be both fun and informative. The result is this invaluable resource book that can be enjoyed by children and adults alike. This project, like all family learning projects:

- *recognises that the family is the first and primary educator of children*
- *respects the difference between methods used in the home and in the school*
- *recognises that learning is a two way process*

Ciara Scott took up the challenge of coordinating the project. She met with local children every Saturday in the library. The commitment shown by all of the families was exceptional. Children chose to skip usual leisure activities, replacing them with research trips to local attractions. The end result was a remarkable team effort with children taking on the task of writing the text while parents and grandparents were responsible for illustrating the work.

In 1199 Milo de Bret was granted the lands of Rathfarnham. This marks the beginning of Rathfarnham's written history. It is an amazing and fascinating story. Many books offer a history of Rathfarnham and its attractions, others tell the story of its famous inhabitants. This Rathfarnham Guidebook is altogether different. Apart from being a great guidebook giving the reader a taste of what this wonderful place has to offer, it also has a different twist: The Top 5 Lists. Here the writers have compiled what they consider to be their top five in the following categories:

Top 5 Places of Interest

Top 5 Family Activities

Top 5 Heroes

Top 5 Artists and Writers

Top 5 Hidden Places

This book is a wonderful resource for anyone researching Rathfarnham, its people and environs. Whether you choose to do so for pleasure or as part of a local history project is up to you. Either way it's a delightful gem to be treasured and enjoyed by all!

*Barbara Coughlan
Children's Librarian
Ballyroan Library
December 2010*

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Top 5 Places of Interest

1. Rathfarnham Castle

Rathfarnham Castle was built for the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, Adam Loftus, who was granted the lands of Rathfarnham in 1583. This castle looked different from what can be seen today. It was a square building, four storeys high and there was a tower at each corner. Over the next 200 years the castle was owned by many people including William Conolly. He was the Speaker of the Irish Parliament in Dublin and bought the castle in 1723 for £62,000.

Eventually in 1767 it was bought by another member of the Loftus family, Nicholas Loftus. He was related to Adam Loftus, the first owner of the castle. When Nicholas died a few years later he left the castle and estate to his uncle, Henry Loftus, who became the Earl of Ely in 1771. Henry changed the castle into the Georgian mansion that can be seen today. Henry also built the triumphal arch gateway. When the Loftus family sold the estate in the 19th century the castle fell into bad condition. It was bought by Francis Blackbourne who was a very important judge in Ireland at that time. The Blackbourne family sold the estate in 1913. The eastern part of the estate became a golf links. The castle and western part were bought by the Jesuit Order. When the Jesuits sold Rathfarnham castle in 1986 it was bought by the state and today it is operated by the Office of Public Works (OPW). The OPW is restoring the castle back to the way it looked when it was owned by Henry Loftus.

The visit is by a guided tour. The tour lasts approximately 1 hour and it is very interesting. The visit takes you into the drawing room, ballroom and library. You can also see evidence of when the Jesuits owned the castle.



Rathfarnham Castle

The castle opens from the end of May to the end of September from 9.30–17.30. Off-season group tours are available Monday - Friday by appointment.

Contact Details

Address: Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

Telephone No: +353 1 493 9462

email: rathfarnhamcastle@opw.ie

There is restricted access for people with disabilities. Photographs and video are allowed.

Admission: Free. Facilities include a popular Tearoom and toilets. The Tearoom opens all year round.

Believe It or Not?

A skeleton of a woman was found in a wall of the castle in 1880. She was there for over 130 years. The wall was a secret compartment and the woman was locked in there by accident. Two men were fighting over her during a ball being held at the castle. They had a duel and the winner was going to rescue her from the compartment. Both men died during the fight and no one else knew that the woman was waiting to be rescued.

2. St Enda's Park and Pearse Museum

St Enda's Park and the Pearse Museum is a must see on a visit to Rathfarnham. The house known as "Hermitage" was built in 1780 for Edward Hudson, an important Dublin dentist. Edward Hudson loved ancient Irish monuments and relics so he erected some ruins around the estate. These ruins included a dolmen, a watch tower and a hermit's cave and can still be seen today. A young woman called Sarah Curran lived opposite the Hermitage in the Priory. She was Robert Emmet's sweetheart. Sarah's father was unhappy about his daughter's relationship with Robert Emmet. It is believed that Robert Emmet and Sarah Curran met secretly in the grounds of Hermitage. Today one of the walks in the park is known as "Emmet's Walk" which leads to a ruin called Emmet's Fort.

The Hermitage was bought by Patrick Pearse in 1910 for his school called St Enda's. The school opened in 1909 in Ranelagh but Patrick moved the school to Rathfarnham because he wanted the children to be educated in a beautiful place.

Patrick Pearse believed that children should be taught in both Irish and English. The boys of St Enda's School also studied art, music, drama and nature.

Patrick and his younger brother, William Pearse, were executed after the Easter Rising in 1916. The school remained open. Patrick's mother and his sister, Margaret, ran St. Enda's until it closed in 1935. Margaret continued to live there. When she died in 1968 the house and grounds were given to the state.

On a visit you can see reconstructions of some of the original rooms, including Patrick Pearse's study, the family sitting room, the school art gallery, the school museum and one of the dormitories where the boys slept. There is also a gallery that shows sculptures made by William Pearse. Visitors can also visit a nature study room with examples of Irish plants and animals. The museum is situated in the beautiful grounds of St Enda's Park.



The Hermitage
Today the building is used as the Pearse Museum.

Nov – Jan: Mon - Sat 09.30 - 16.00

Feb: Mon – Sat 09.30 - 17.00

Mar – Oct: Mon – Sat 09.30 - 17.30

Sundays and Bank Holidays: opens at 10.00am -17.00

Contact Details

Address: St. Enda's Park, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin.

Telephone No: +353 1 493 4208

Fax No: +353 1 493 6120

email: brian.crowley@opw.ie

Guided tours of the museum are available on request and last approximately 30 minutes.

There is also a short video that gives you an introduction to St Enda's.

There is disabled access to all areas except the Halla Mór. Admission: Free

Did You Know?

Before the 1916 Rebellion, Desmond Ryan and Liam Bulfin used the basement of The Hermitage as a bomb factory.

3. Loreto Abbey

Loreto Abbey is one of the most spectacular buildings in Rathfarnham. Loreto Abbey was originally called Rathfarnham House. It was built in 1725 for William Palliser. He was famous for inventing tubing for inside guns. One of many famous people who visited Rathfarnham House was the musician George Frederic Handel. In the 1790's the mansion was bought by George Grierson, who was the King's Printer in Ireland at that time.

The Archbishop of Dublin bought Rathfarnham House in 1821. He wanted to use the house as a school. In 1822 the newly founded Loreto Order under Rev. Mother Mary Frances Teresa Ball established a boarding school there for girls and a free school for the poor children of Rathfarnham.



The abbey closed as a boarding school in 1999 and the last sisters left in 2000 to move to a new Loreto House.

Did You Know?

Mother Teresa of Calcutta entered religion at Loreto Abbey in 1928 at the age of 18. She received a Nobel peace prize, for her work with the poor in 1979.

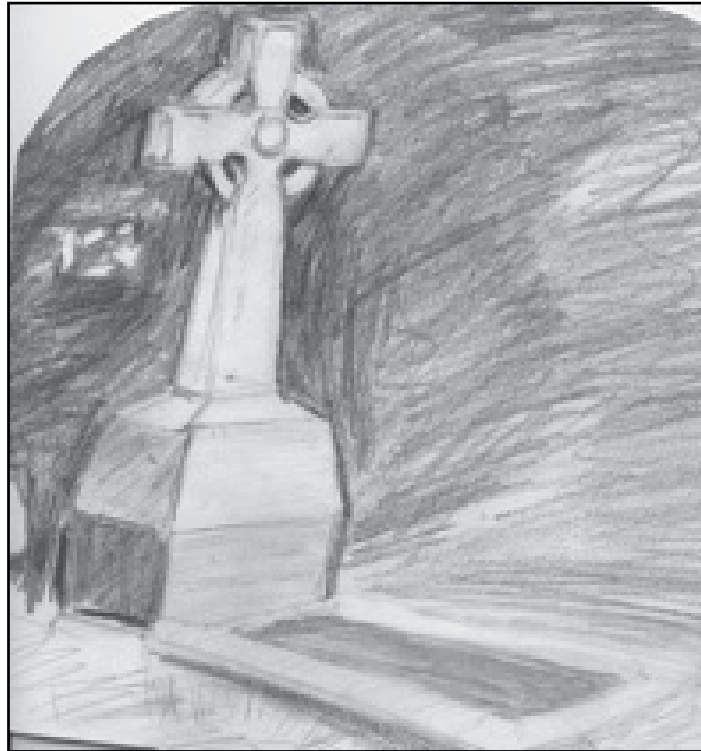
4. Marlay Park

Marlay Park is a 300 acre public park and includes woodlands, walking tracks and ponds. There are a number of amenities which are suitable for families, including playgrounds, tennis courts and a miniature railway that runs during the summer. The park also has a golf course, football and cricket pitches. There is a Farmers' Market, craft shops and a café - ideal for a family day out. Since 2000 the park is used as a music venue.



Marlay House is located in the park. The oldest part of the house is nearly 300 years old. It was built by Thomas Taylor and was called "The Grange". The estate was bought by David La Touche in 1764. He was a politician and also the first Governor of the Bank of Ireland. La Touche renamed the house Marlay for his wife Elizabeth Marlay. The house was sold again in 1864 to Robert Tedcastle who was a Dublin coal merchant.

The Tedcastle family lived in Marlay House until 1925 when it was bought by Philip Love. Philip Love was an interesting man. He was the largest tomato producer in Ireland and he was also a racehorse breeder. It is believed that during his life he earned £40,000 from racehorses – a lot of money back then. In 1972 Dublin County Council became the new owner of the house and land and turned it into a public park. Today Marlay Park is run by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.



The Old Cemetery

Historical Fact

The name Rathfarnham comes from the Irish Ráth Fearnáin. This means Fort of Fearnan. We do not know who Fearnan was.

5. The Old Cemetery

The Old Cemetery is one of the most fascinating places in Rathfarnham. In the grounds of the cemetery you can see the ruins of a church. This is the Church of St Peter and Paul. It was used as Rathfarnham's Protestant Church until 1795. When the church became too small, a new church was built nearby in Rathfarnham village. There are 166 memorials - 134 of these have engravings that can still be read today. There are also lots of unmarked graves where the poor people were buried. You can see many interesting graves in the cemetery. The oldest headstone is that of William Phillips who died in 1689. Many important families are buried here, such as George Grierson and his family. He was the King's Printer in Ireland in the 18th Century and he lived in Rathfarnham House (now known as Loreto Abbey). Near the entrance is the grave of Capt. James Kelly. He was a Fenian. The Fenians fought against the English in the 1867 rebellion. Capt. Kelly was in charge of the Rathfarnham Fenians and was known as "The Knight of Glendoo". When the English troops tried to arrest him they made a mistake. Another man, James Fitzpatrick, who looked like him, was arrested instead and spent 6 months in prison. Capt. Kelly died 8th March 1915 at 69 years of age.

There is also a plaque in the graveyard dedicated to Ellen Crone. It says that she was "*... for many years the devoted nurse and friend in the family of Abraham and Charlotte Stoker and in whose services she died 29th March 1869 age 68 years*".

Charlotte and Abraham Stoker were the parents of Bram Stoker. He was a great writer. He wrote the book "Dracula". If you visit the graveyard you will notice that some stones are marked by letters "IHS". This means that Catholics were also buried in the graveyard.

The graveyard is usually locked. To gain access contact South Dublin County Council.



Bushy Park

Top 5 Activities

1. Parks and Playgrounds

Rathfarnham is lucky to have many outdoor areas for families to visit. There are 3 main parks – Marlay Park, St Enda’s and Bushy Park. The parks have lots of facilities and interesting sights including playing fields, tennis courts, leisure trails, nature walks, walled gardens, ponds, rivers and pavilions for music entertainment. Marlay Park and Bushy Park have a children’s playground. There is also a wonderful playground in the grounds of Rathfarnham Castle. During the summer a miniature railway operates in Marlay Park.

Marlay Park is maintained by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

For further information check out www.dlrcoco.ie

Bushy Park is maintained by Dublin City Council.

For further information check out
www.dublincity.ie

St Enda’s Park is maintained by the Office of Public Works.

For further information check out www.heritageireland.ie

Rathfarnham Castle park and playground is maintained by South Dublin County Council.

For further information check out www.sdcc.ie

2. Children's Activities

There are lots of interesting activities for children to do in Rathfarnham. Rathfarnham Castle runs art workshops for children during the summer season and at other times during the year such as Halloween and Easter. Workshops and children's activities are also held at St Enda's either in the Pearse Museum or in the Nature Room. Children can also take part in nature trails that are held at St Enda's Park.

Ballyroan Library runs children's activities and story time during the year. Check out their website www.southdublinlibraries.ie

Giddy Studios located in Grange Road Retail Park have pottery painting for all age groups. Kids and families can create mugs, plates, fairies or cars during the visit which lasts 2 hours. For more information check out the website www.giddystudios.com



3. Walking

Rathfarnham is a great place for people who like to walk. Adventurous walkers will be interested in one of the most famous walks in Ireland “The Wicklow Way”. This walk is 127km long and begins in Rathfarnham. Mountains, lakes, streams, glacial valleys and forests are all part of the Wicklow Way. The first section of the trail (Marlay Park to Knockree) is 21km and takes about 7 hours to walk! Luckily Rathfarnham has lots of other places to go walking. Try the riverside walk in St Enda’s Park or one of the native tree trails in Bushy Park. You can download a Bushy Park Nature Tree Trail from the Dublin City Council’s website (www.dublincity.ie).

4. Shopping

Rathfarnham has plenty of places for shopping. Rathfarnham Shopping Centre on Springfield Avenue has many shops including sports, stationery, music, places to dine, key cutting, shoes, jewellery and several other goods/services.

The Nutgrove Centre opened in 1984 and has over 70 shops, offices and restaurants. So you should be able to find everything you need there. A craft courtyard can be found in Marlay Park showing and selling crafts such as weaving, glass cutting, copper craft, pottery, jewellery and embroidery.

Did You Know?

Ireland’s first drive through McDonald’s opened at the Nutgrove Shopping Centre.

On Saturdays from 10am – 4pm there is a Farmers' Market behind Marlay House. The local farmers and producers sell a wide range of fresh and specialist foods as well as foods from different cultures. Craft workers also set up stalls during the market to sell their goods.

5. Rathfarnham Animal Shelter

Rathfarnham Animal Centre was opened by the Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA) in 2003. The shelter cares for lots of different kinds of animals – cats, dogs, rabbits, goats, horses, cows and even snakes. It also looks after injured and very young wildlife such as foxes, badgers and swans until they are ready to be released back into the wild.

Some parts of the shelter are open to the public and it is a great day out for families. You can visit the stables, dog kennels, cattery, pig play area, paddocks and small animal area. There is also a café called “Central Bark Café” to relax in and a supplies shop. Here you can buy beds, food, leads and toys for your pet. A visit to the shelter is free. Schools, summer camps and community groups can book a private visit which also includes a video and tour of the shelter.

Rathfarnham Animal Shelter is open to the public:

Mon – Fri: 11.00am – 4.30pm

Sat – Sun: 12.00noon – 4.00pm

Dublin SPCA Animal Campus
Mount Venus Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.

Fax: (01) 493 7674

Admission: Free

For more information check out the website

www.dspca.ie



Dublin S.P.C.A. Dogs' and Cats' Home

*Did You Know
Dublin SPCA is the oldest and largest
animal welfare organisation in Ireland. It
helps more than 10,000 animals every year*



*Butterfield House
May have been rented by Robert Emmet to plan his 1803 Rebellion*



Robert Emmet

Top 5 Heroes

1. Robert Emmet (1778-1803)

Robert Emmet is one of our greatest heroes and he lived in Rathfarnham for a while. Robert was born in Dublin on 4th of March 1778. He studied at Trinity College but was expelled when he became involved in the United Irishmen. The United Irishmen fought in the 1798 rebellion. This attempt to win freedom for Ireland failed.

A few years later Robert Emmet rented a house in Rathfarnham. We believe that the house was on Butterfield Lane (now called Butterfield Avenue). In this house Robert planned another rebellion. However this rebellion also failed. He was arrested in Harold's Cross in August 1803 and found guilty of High Treason (this means being disloyal to the King or Queen of England). Robert was hanged outside St Catherine's Church on Thomas Street on 20th of September 1803. He died at the young age of 25.

Did You Know?

Nobody knows where Robert Emmet is buried. After his execution, Robert was buried in Bully's Acre in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. Later his friends removed his body and reburied Robert in secret.

2. Anne Devlin (1780-1851)

Anne Devlin was born in Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. She was born into a family that believed that Ireland should be free. Following the outbreak of rebellion in 1798 her family home was often raided and some of her family was imprisoned. In 1800 her family moved to Dublin, where Anne met Robert Emmet. Emmet asked Anne to be his housekeeper in Butterfield Lane. He wanted to show that he had a normal life. However, Robert Emmet was planning a rebellion and Anne helped him with his plans. She acted as a messenger and brought information about the rebellion to Robert Emmet's friends and his supporters.

When the rebellion failed, a group of soldiers arrived at Butterfield Lane and arrested Anne. The authorities wanted Anne to give them information about Robert Emmet and his followers. Anne refused. She was imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol. Her family was also arrested. Anne was then offered a lot of money but still refused to co-operate. She stayed loyal to Robert even though she was tortured and kept in solitary confinement in prison. She remained in prison for nearly three years. Eventually Anne was released from Kilmainham Gaol. She later married and had two children but she died all alone and in poverty.

Historical Fact

In 1618 Rathfarnham was given the right to hold fairs and markets. The fairs were held in July and the markets in June. They were held in Butterfield Lane, now known as Butterfield Avenue.



Anne Devlin

3. John Philpot Curran (1750-1817)

John Philpot Curran was a famous lawyer. He lived in The Priory which was across from St Enda's. After the failed rebellion of 1798 John Philpot Curran defended some of the United Irishmen in court. One of the men he helped was Theobald Wolfe Tone. He was one of the founders of the United Irishmen. Although Curran defended the United Irishmen, he refused to help Robert Emmet after he was arrested in 1803. He didn't like Robert. However, Robert was secretly engaged to John Philpot Curran's daughter, Sarah.

The young couple had to meet in secret because Sarah's father did not approve of their relationship. After the 1803 rebellion, the Curran house in Rathfarnham was searched by British soldiers. John Philpot Curran was very angry with Sarah for putting their lives at risk and he ordered her out of the house. Sarah went to stay with friends in Cork and was heartbroken when she heard about Robert Emmet's execution. Although she married in 1805, she never recovered from Robert's death and Sarah died in 1808, just five years after Robert Emmet was executed. Perhaps she died of a broken heart.

*Did You Know?
You can see a marble sculpture of
John Philpot Curran in St Patrick's
Cathedral, Dublin.*



John Philpot Curran

4. Rev. Mother Frances Mary Teresa Ball (1794-1861)

Frances Ball was born in Dublin in 1794. She was sent to York in England to be educated. When she returned to Ireland she was 14 years old and decided that she wanted to become a nun. The Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Daniel Murray, sent Frances back to York to receive her religious training. She took the religious name Mary Teresa. Once again she returned to Dublin and Mother Mary Teresa Ball set up the Irish branch of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They were known as the Loreto Sisters and in 1822 they opened Loreto Abbey in Rathfarnham House. Here Mother Mary Teresa established a boarding school for girls and also opened a free school for poor children.



Rev. Mother Frances Mary Teresa Ball

5. Patrick Pearse (1879-1916)

Patrick Pearse (Pádraig Mac Piarais) was a teacher, poet and writer who believed in and fought for Irish independence. He was born in Great Brunswick Street (now called Pearse Street) in Dublin city centre. In school he loved Irish history and the Irish language. He studied law in university and in 1908 he and his brother William set up St Enda's school in Ranelagh. They later moved the school to Rathfarnham. In 1913 Patrick became involved in Ireland's fight for freedom. He joined the Irish Volunteers and was one of the main leaders of the 1916 Easter Rebellion. During the fighting he was in the GPO on O'Connell Street. On the first morning of the rebellion he read out the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. After only six days of fighting, Pearse and the other leaders surrendered.

There were too many British soldiers. Many people had been killed or injured and the city centre was destroyed. Pearse and the other leaders were arrested and imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol. The leaders were sentenced to be executed and Pearse was the first of fourteen men to be shot by a firing squad in Kilmainham Gaol.

Historical Fact

In the 18th century there were many mills in the Rathfarnham area. Most of the mills made paper. Later they produced woollen and cotton goods. Before they closed in the 19th century, flour was made at some of the mills.



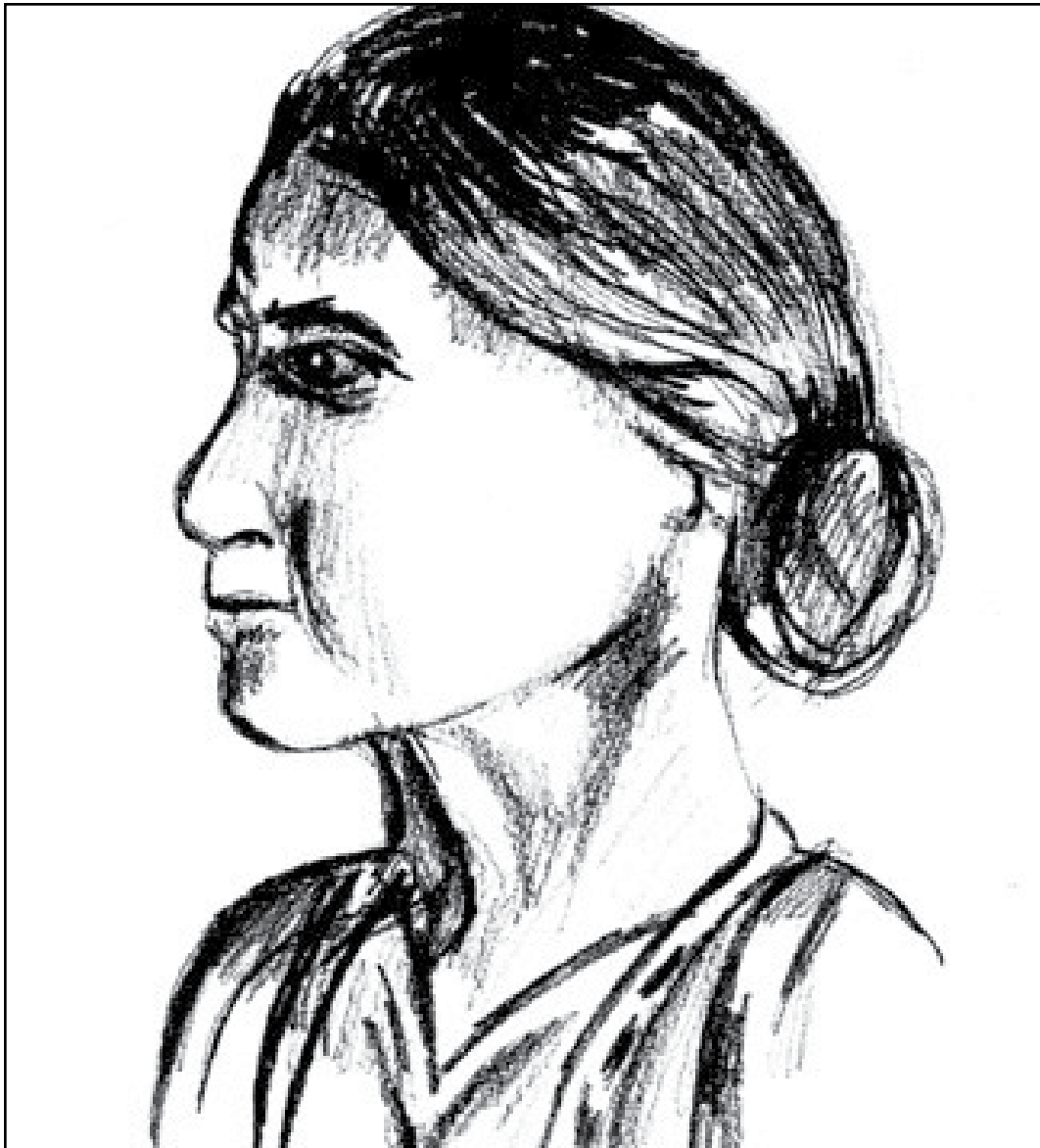
Patrick Pearse

Top 5 Artists and Writers

1. Evie Hone (1894-1955)

Evie Hone was a very talented artist. She was famous for her stained glass windows. Evie was born in Dublin and studied art in Dublin and London. When she returned to Dublin she lived at Dower House in Rathfarnham and opened her own studio there, in the grounds of Marlay House.

Her stained glass window *My Four Green Fields* can be seen in Government Building in Dublin. Some of her other work can be found in Trinity College, Hugh Lane Gallery and the chapel of Eton College in England.



Evie Hone

2. William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)

W. B. Yeats was a great poet and writer. He was born in Dublin in 1865 and was educated in London and Dublin. He spent his summer holidays in Co. Sligo. He loved Sligo and wrote some of his greatest poems there.

His poems include *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, *Among School Children* and *Easter 1916*. Yeats also helped to open the National Theatre which is now known as the Abbey Theatre. In 1923 he won the Nobel Prize for Literature. Yeats died in France in 1939 but we know that his last home in Ireland was *Riversdale House* on *Ballyboden Road*, *Rathfarnham*.



William Butler Yeats

3. William Pearse (1881-1916)

William Pearse was the younger brother of Patrick Pearse. He opened St Enda's School with Patrick in 1908 and taught art and drama. William also took part in the Easter Rising. He was not one of the leaders of the rebellion but was shot by a firing squad the day after Patrick on the 4th of May 1916.

William Pearse, like his father, James Pearse, was a talented artist and sculptor. William studied at the Metropolitan School of Art in Dublin and also studied in Paris. William's work can be seen today in Dublin churches, Limerick Cathedral and Letterkenny. People in Rathfarnham do not have to travel that far as there is an exhibition of William's work in one of galleries of the Pearse Museum.



William Pearce

4. John Millington Synge (1871-1909)

John Millington Synge was a famous writer and poet. He was born at 2 Newton Villas, Rathfarnham in 1871. As a child he was often sick but would spend a lot of time walking and playing along the River Dodder. At this time he became interested in watching and studying birds.

Synge is best known for his plays. He wrote *The Playboy of the Western World*, *Riders to the Sea* and *Shadow of the Glen*. Synge was also one of the directors of the Abbey Theatre in Dublin.



John Millington Synge

5. Adam Clayton (1960 - present)

Adam Clayton is a member of the rock band U2. He was born in 1960 and has a close connection to Rathfarnham. In the 1980s U2 recorded their famous album The Joshua Tree in Danesmoate House.

Danesmoate is a Georgian Mansion and was once known as Glensouthwell. Adam Clayton loved the old house and after the band finished recording the album he bought the mansion and restored it. Nearby is St Columba's College, where Adam Clayton went to school as a teenager.

Historical Fact

In the 17th and 18th century, big houses were built for wealthy men such as Butterfield House, Hermitage, Rathfarnham House, Old Orchard and the Priory.



Adam Clayton

Top 5 Hidden Rathfarnham

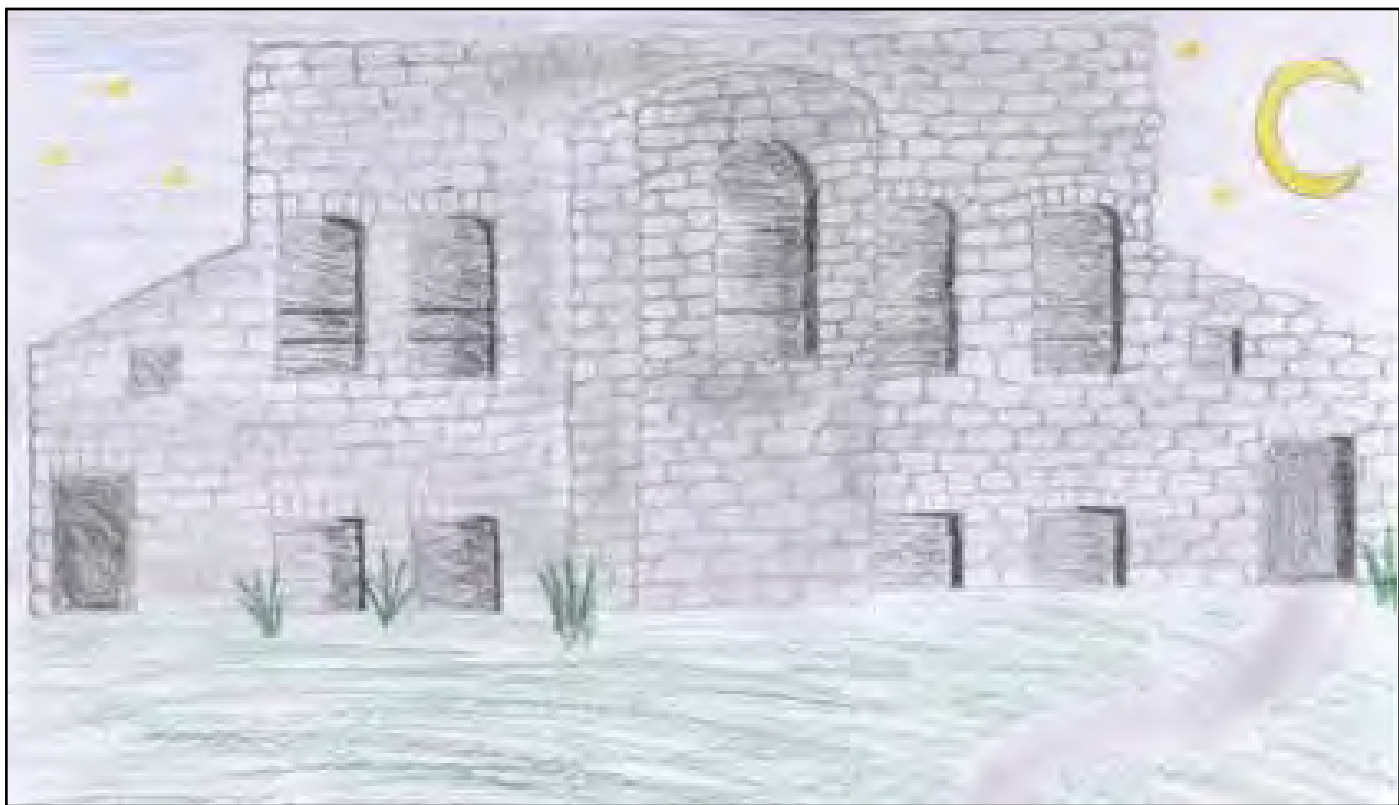
1. Hell Fire Club

On top of Mount Pelier you will find the Hell Fire Club. This ruined building was a hunting lodge built for William Conolly in about 1720. William Conolly had an important job. He was the Speaker in the Irish House of Commons and he lived in Rathfarnham Castle for a while. It is believed that the lodge was built on the site of an ancient passage tomb perhaps more than 4000 years old. Speaker Conolly demolished the monument and used some of the stones to build his lodge. He died in 1729 and the lodge was later taken over by the Hell Fire Club.

These clubs were set up in the 18th century and the members were involved in drinking, devil worship, black magic and other bad behaviour. Today the house and surrounding wood is owned by Coillte, the company who looks after most of Ireland's forests and woodlands. There are beautiful views of Dublin and the surrounding area. The Hell Fire Club can be reached from Stocking Lane. It is a short walk uphill to Montpelier Summit.

Believe It or Not ?

After the hunting lodge was built a powerful storm blew the roof away. Local people believed it was punishment for knocking down the sacred passage tomb.



Hell Fire Club

2. Stone Monuments

There are some interesting ancient stone monuments and tombs around Rathfarnham. These are megalithic monuments which mean that they were made from large stones. Many of them were built thousands of years BC.

The Brehon's Chair is located in Brehon's Chair housing estate which is a gated estate. Three tall slabs of granite stone were used to make the monument. It is believed that it was the seat of judgement for the Archdruid. The Archdruid was a judge and was in charge of the laws in Ireland before St Patrick brought Christianity to the country.

Mount Venus Dolmen is a national monument. It was probably used as a burial tomb for very wealthy people. Dolmens have two standing stones which support a very heavy stone on top called a capstone. The capstone at Mount Venus weighs about 44 tons but it has collapsed and fallen against one of the standing stones. You can see other megalithic tombs on the peaks of Kilmashogue and Tibbradden Mountain.

3. The Bottle Tower

The Bottle Tower can be found near the Nutgrove Shopping Centre on Whitehall Road. It is also known as Hall's Barn. It was built in 1742 by Major Hall. The ground floor of the tower was used for storing grain. There are fireplaces on the 1st and 2nd floors so maybe people lived in the tower some time in the past. Outside there are stone spiral stairs which may mean that the tower was used as a viewing tower.



The Bottle Tower

4. Pigeon House

Not far from Rathfarnham Castle in a private garden on Crannagh Road is a circular building known as the Pigeon House. It was built in the 18th century and the walls are covered with small holes for the pigeons.

Historical Fact

In 1879 The Dublin Central Tramways Company started a horse – drawn tram service from Dublin City to Rathfarnham. The tram system in Dublin was electrified from 1899.

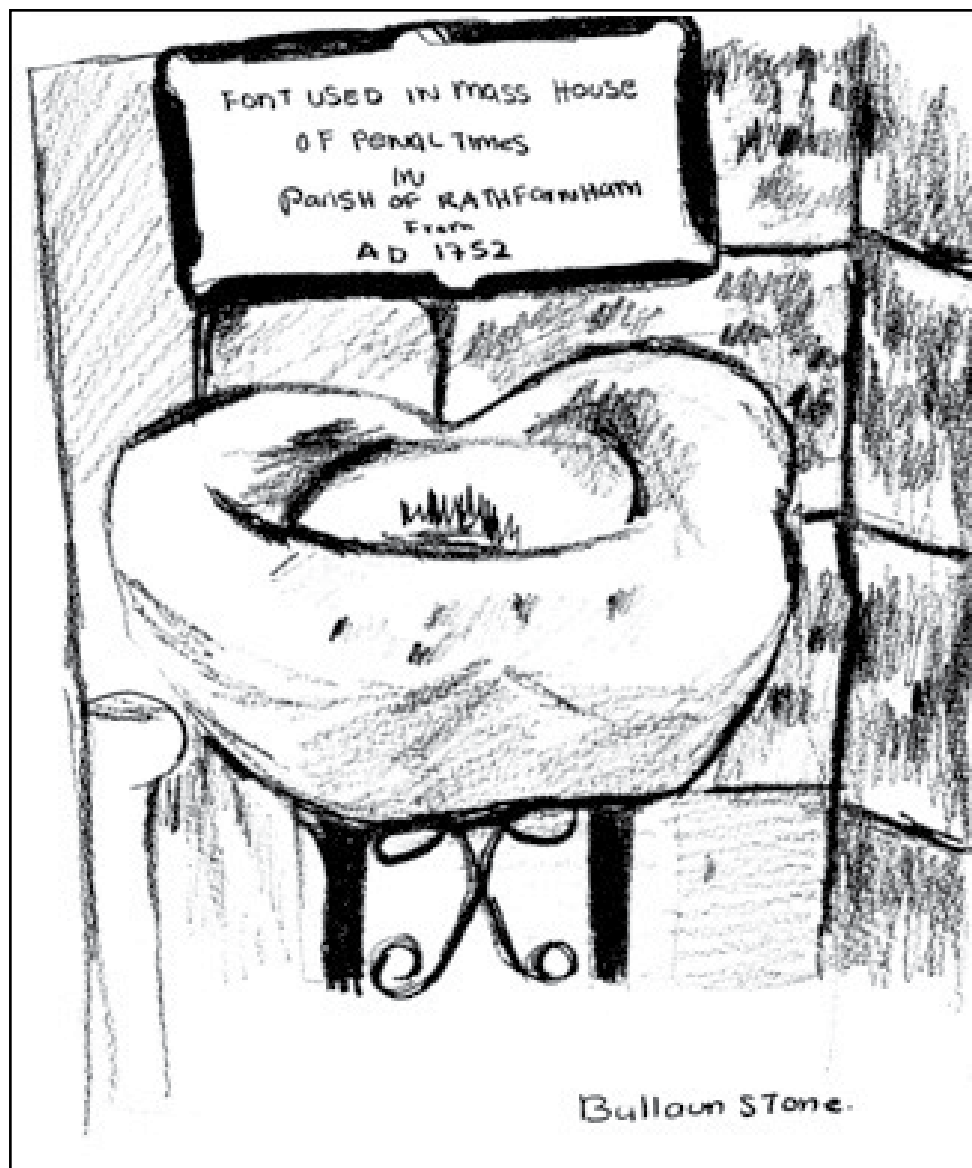


Pigeon House

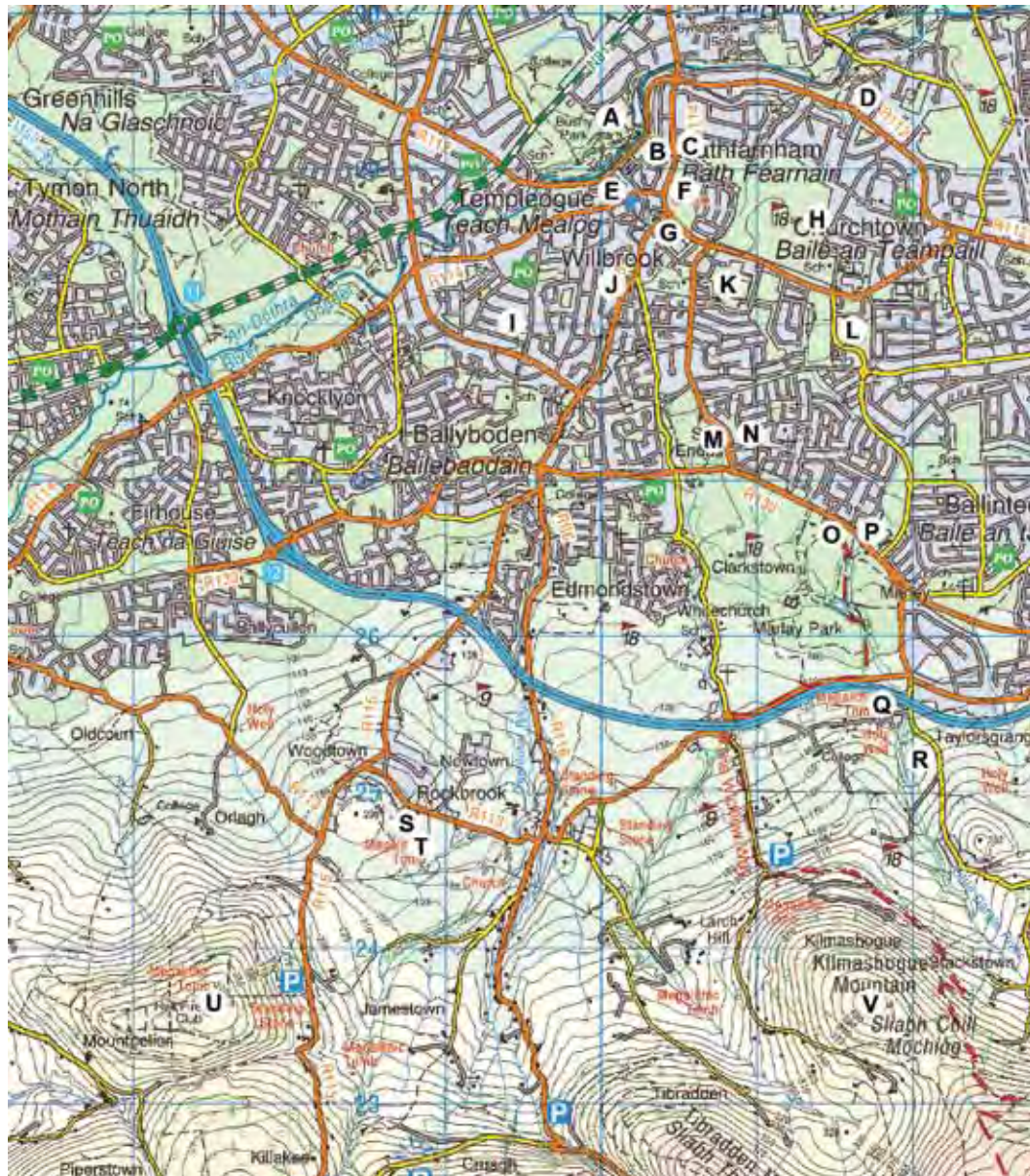
5. Bullaun Stone

Outside the Catholic Church of the Annunciation you can see a very old holy water font. The plaque over the font tells us that it was used during penal times. At the end of the 17th century the English Government passed laws against the Catholic people. Catholics were not allowed to vote, educate their children or go to mass. Mass was held outside in secret or in people's houses.

This font was used during those times. Some people also believe that the font may be even older because it looks like a bullaun stone. Bullaun stones were used hundreds of years ago when Ireland became a Christian country in the 5th, 6th and 7th centuries. People believed that the rainwater that fell into the hollow of the stone had healing powers. It was also said that the water in a bullaun stone never dries up.



Map



Rathfarnham's Top Five Map

A	Bushy Park (park and playground, Nature Tree Trail)	M	St. Enda's Park (park and playground, Pearse Museum, children's activities, Riverside Walk, Patrick Pearse, William Pearse)
B	The Old Cemetery		
C	Pigeon House	N	Priory (John Philpot Curran)
D	2 Newtown Villas (John Millington Synge)	O	Marlay Park (park and playground, Wicklow Way, Craft Courtyard, Farmers' Market, Evie Hone)
E	Butterfield House (Robert Emmet, Anne Devlin)	P	Giddy Studios (children's activities)
F	Rathfarnham Castle	Q	Brehon's Chair
G	Bullaun Stone, Church of the Annunciation, Rathfarnham	R	Danesmoate House (Adam Clayton)
H	The Bottle Tower	S	Mount Venus Dolmen
I	Ballyroan Library (children's activities)	T	Rathfarnham Animal Shelter
J	Riversdale, Ballyboden Road (William Butler Yeats)	U	Hell Fire Club
K	Loreto Abbey (Rev. Mother Francis Mary Teresa Ball)	V	Kilmashogue Mountain (stone monuments)
L	Nutgrove Shopping Centre	W	Tibradden Mountain (stone monuments)

Where we found the information:

www.southdublinhistory.ie

www.scoilnet.ie

www.heritageireland.ie

www.rathfarnham.com

Patrick Healy

Rathfarnham Roads

Local History Group
Rathfarnham Guild
Irish Countrywomen's Ass.

Rathfarnham Gateway to the Hills

Micheál Ó Doibhlín

Anne Devlin – the Bravest of the Brave

Vivian Igoe

Dublin Burial Grounds and Graveyards

Mel Ní Cearnaigh

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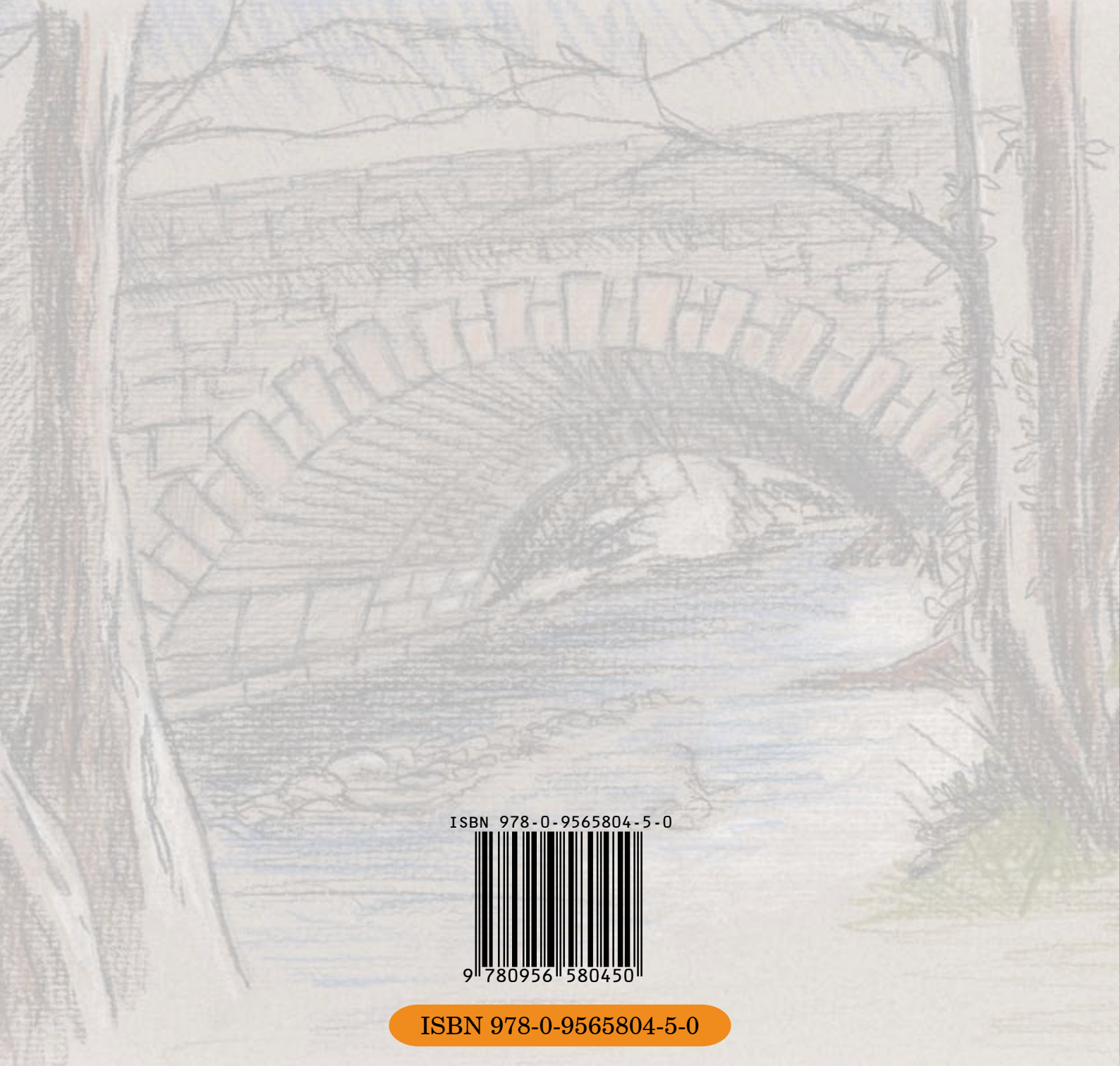
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Ciara Scott



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